

The World

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over and above his life insurance. It would be still pleasanter if we could hear something of the same kind more frequently when fame is trumpeting the post-mortem praises of statesmen who have become famous on this side of the line.

HOW COCKRAN SHOULD MEET IT.

Under the advice of friends more prudent than himself Croker has grown quiet for a time.

But his challenge to Bourke Cockran still stands and Mr. Cockran should lose no time in meeting it, both for his own sake and for the sake of rendering a service to a public that has conferred honor upon him.

Of course Mr. Cockran cannot afford to wrangle with Croker in the secrecy of a Tammany committee meeting. But he can and should accept Croker's challenge in a broader way.

He knows the inside workings of Tammany under Croker's control. He can tell the public how offices have been bargained and bartered for and with what autocratic despotism Croker has determined nominations and turned elections which way he pleased. He knows the secret of the power Croker exercised. He knows what his hold has been upon the corrupt forces which he so long controlled. He could even give a valuable shrewd guess as to where Croker got it.

Why should he not make his answer to Croker's challenge by telling all these things? He could render no other public service so valuable as this.

THE SEVENTY AND SCHOOL REFORM.

Under the reformed system of school management recommended by the Committee of Seventy the tendency to make the Board of Education a political machine would be greatly lessened by the separation of the educational work of the board from the letting of contracts for new buildings and supplies.

These contracts have always been the most fruitful source of demoralization in the school management of every city of the country. The general public does not realize, perhaps, how large are the sums involved in the construction of new buildings absolutely essential to accommodate the annual increase in the school population of a city like New York. Some idea of it may be gained from the estimate of Supt. Jasper that the annual increase in the school population of the city is equal to the total school population of a city of a hundred thousand inhabitants. So that once every five years we must build enough new school-houses to accommodate all the children of such cities as Baltimore, Cincinnati or Boston.

When the responsibility for providing these school-houses is put on the Department of Buildings and Supplies not only will the School Board be relieved of the temptation to jobbery, but its influence will be enlisted on the side of the public in the demand for sufficient school accommodations. Where it is now on the defensive against the public it will then have every reason to use all its influence to force the Department of Buildings and Supplies to meet its responsibility.

According to the Superintendent's estimates, we have an average attendance of 175,000 children in the public schools, with 23,000 in the corporate schools under public supervision, and the Committee of Seventy has estimated that there are at least 30,000 more for whom there are no school accommodations of any kind. The committee's recommendations are calculated to secure school room for these as expeditiously as possible. As the motive for their adoption it has the guilty conscience of the city, aware that in denying any child his equal opportunity with the rest for education it commits a crime.

REDEMING KENTUCKY.

The discussion of Mr. Carlisle's availability as a Democratic candidate for Governor of Kentucky presents questions of serious importance to the Kentucky Democracy as well as to Mr. Carlisle himself. If there is a reasonable prospect that he will be beaten if nominated it will be his duty to himself and to his party to decline the nomination if it is offered to him.

There is no doubt at all that a little over two years ago Mr. Carlisle could have carried the State by a heavy majority. It was then safely Democratic. It gave Mr. Cleveland a plurality of 40,020, and it would have given Mr. Carlisle more than that over any one who could have been nominated against him.

That, however, was before the Sugar Trust scandal and before the Cleveland Cabinet had shown itself incapable of inaugurating the reforms demanded by the party and pledged to the people in the party's platform denunciation of trusts and monopolies.

It is to be apprehended that in spite of what was once his great popularity in Kentucky Mr. Carlisle has not yet been able to explain existing conditions to the satisfaction of those who were once his admirers. Indeed this is indicated by the latest returns, for at the elections of November last, when it may have been expected that

Mr. Carlisle's popularity in Kentucky would secure an endorsement for the Administration in that State, the Democratic plurality of 40,020 disappeared altogether and was replaced by a Republican plurality of 1,435.

If Mr. Carlisle thinks he has a reasonable chance to overcome this plurality it may become his duty to accept the nomination. Undoubtedly there are a number of Kentucky counties he can rely on for support, and if he thinks he can make the explanations demanded by the Democrats of the State there can be no reasonable objection to his entering the canvass. But where the responsibility is only equalled by the risk, he should do nothing without the fullest consideration of the probabilities of the situation.

THE ADIRONDACK GRAB.

The Forestry Commission was created to protect the State's woodlands. Its members were ill chosen for such a purpose, most of them being persons ready to serve the railroads, wood pulp men and other speculative spoilers of the forests.

The new Constitution forbids further grants of forest lands, and it will go into effect next Tuesday. On Thursday the Land Board met to give some fat slices, while there was yet time, to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Adirondack railroad, Warner Miller's wood pulp concern and others. A timely injunction stopped the game.

Then the Delaware and Hudson people got together a bare quorum of the Forestry Commission, and they granted what the company wanted under the guise of a right of way.

The greedy grabbers contend that this grant is effective, and that, being only a right-of-way concession, it does not require the Land Board's assent, which of course cannot now be had owing to the injunction.